



## NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

This was a week of reflection, prayer, and community following Wednesday's horrifying attack on Members of Congress, Capitol Police, and Congressional staff during baseball practice. I'm thankful to the Capitol Police and first responders who acted quickly and bravely and successfully stopped the attacker. I continue to pray for my colleague Steve Scalise, who remains in the hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts.

In the aftermath of the shooting, the House cancelled votes and instead held a meeting of Republicans and Democrats where we all agreed how important it is to show the American people that, while we may disagree vehemently on the issues, we condemn extremist and hateful political rhetoric. Afterward, I joined my colleagues on the House floor and listened to Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi address the morning's events. As Speaker Ryan said, "An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us."

The Congressional Baseball Game is a fun, bipartisan tradition, and I'm proud that it went ahead as planned last night. Our D.C. staff attended and had a wonderful time.

### **Passing a major bipartisan VA accountability bill**

This week, I voted for the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, which creates an expedited process to remove VA employees who perform poorly or fail to uphold the standards demanded from public servants. It also establishes an Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection to ensure that employees do not face retaliation for reporting misdeeds, fraud, or inappropriate behavior. The House passed the bill, and the President is expected to sign it into law next week.

I am pleased Congress developed a bipartisan bill to address the systemic VA management challenges that contributed to unacceptable situations such as the 2014 waitlist scandal. Veterans deserve dedication, care, and support from each and every VA employee, and this week's bill will help make sure our veterans are always treated with the professionalism and respect that the majority of VA employees already demonstrate.

### **Encouraging energy efficiency in schools**

The House also passed H.R.627, the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2017, a bill I co-introduced in January. Outdated and inefficient heating, cooling and ventilation systems place a financial burden on too many New Hampshire school districts. Improving energy efficiency is a simple and effective way to lower energy costs, improve environmental sustainability, and invest in our kids and our communities.

While many existing federal programs exist to support such upgrades, finding out about them can prove a hurdle for overburdened administrators. Our bill will save New Hampshire schools time and money by making it easier to find and apply for federal financing to support energy efficiency improvements.

### **Investigating electoral interference**

This week Bloomberg News [found](#) that Russian cyber hacks during the 2016 election were much more extensive than previously reported, hitting voter databases in 39 states. This was an attack on our democracy, and it will happen again without an independent commission to follow the facts and develop a defense strategy. That's why I continue to push for a Congressionally-ordered independent commission.

### **Standing up for LGBTQ rights**

LGBTQ rights are civil rights. I am proud of how far our country has come since 2009, when I [worked to overturn](#) the discriminatory Don't Ask Don't Tell policy as a member of the House Armed Services Committee. This week, I co-introduced a bill directing the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged because of their sexual orientation under Don't Ask Don't Tell. These men and women served honorably, and their discharge status should not reflect the biases of the past.

I also sent a letter together with several dozen colleagues urging the Indonesian government to exercise its responsibility to investigate and put a stop to repressive and discriminatory actions against minorities in the country after two gay men were publicly caned. These attacks fall into a problematic pattern of increasing intolerance for minorities across Indonesia.

### **Closing thoughts**

I am closely monitoring [outrageous reports](#) about the secrecy surrounding the Senate Republicans' health care bill. This process is unacceptable, and the American people deserve far better.

As always, I enjoyed welcoming New Hampshire constituents to the nation's capital. For pictures from this week's meetings, check out the [Facebook album](#).

It continues to be an honor to represent you in Congress. Thank you for reading.

Best wishes,

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol

**This week's press releases**

- [Shea-Porter Votes for Bipartisan Bill to Improve VA Accountability](#)
- [House Passes Shea-Porter Co-introduced Bill to Encourage Energy Efficiency in Schools](#)
- [ICYMI: Shea-Porter, Scott, Bonamici, Murray, Warren Urge Secretary DeVos to Protect Students, Reverse Student Loan Decisions](#)

**ICYMI**

- [Editorial: The scourge of ringless voicemail](#)  
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